

Disclosure of Tobacco Smoke Residue in Rental Agreements

Background

- When tobacco smoke is released within an indoor environment, its residue that contains harmful chemicals, including nicotine, stick to all surrounding surfaces, such as furniture, walls, carpet, etc.
- This residue, also known as thirdhand smoke (THS) is linked to numerous negative health outcomes, including asthma, inflammation, reproductive damage, and an increased risk of cancer.
- Currently, landlords are not required to disclose to or inform a new tenant if a former tenant smoked/vaped within the premises.
- Do California residents support a policy that requires landlords to disclose if a previous tenant smoked or vaped?



Methods

Statewide Survey

- A survey was created and posted on Prolific, an online survey distribution service, and was open to any California resident.
- Demographic information was collected, including age, gender, race, education, and employment status.

Housing Information

- Housing information was collected, including what type of home they live in and whether the respondents own or rent.
- Renters were asked if smoking was allowed on the property they rent, and if so, where.

Landlords

- Each participant was asked if they rent out any properties.
- Landlords were asked if smoking was allowed on the property or properties they lease out, and if so, where.

Knowledge and Attitude Questions

- Each respondent was given a standardized set of knowledge and attitude questions.
- These questions are designed to gauge the respondents' knowledge and attitudes toward secondhand and thirdhand smoke, including its health/environmental effects, how it impacts their consumer behavior, and their attitudes towards smoke-free policies.

Gunnar Wooldridge¹, BA; Savannah Yurcek^{1,2}, BS; Lydia Greiner¹, DrPH; Georg E. Matt^{1,3}, PhD ¹Policy Research Center for Tobacco and the Environment, ²SAY San Diego, ³San Diego State University

Race	African American / Black	Caucasian/ White	Asian American	Native American/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Pac Islander
n	288	1154	490	42	15
% of	12.4%	49.7%	21.1%	1.8%	0.7%
Education	Some high school or less	High school or GED	Some college	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree
n	6	218	473	201	1038
%	0.30%	9.4%	20.4%	8.7%	44.7%
Smoking Status	Cigarettes	E-cigs or vapes	Both	Neither	Total
n	92	232	179	1820	2323
%	4.0%	10.0%	7.7%	78.3%	100.00%
Age (yrs)	Median	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	SD
	34	36.9	18	86	12.8

Results

Housing Information

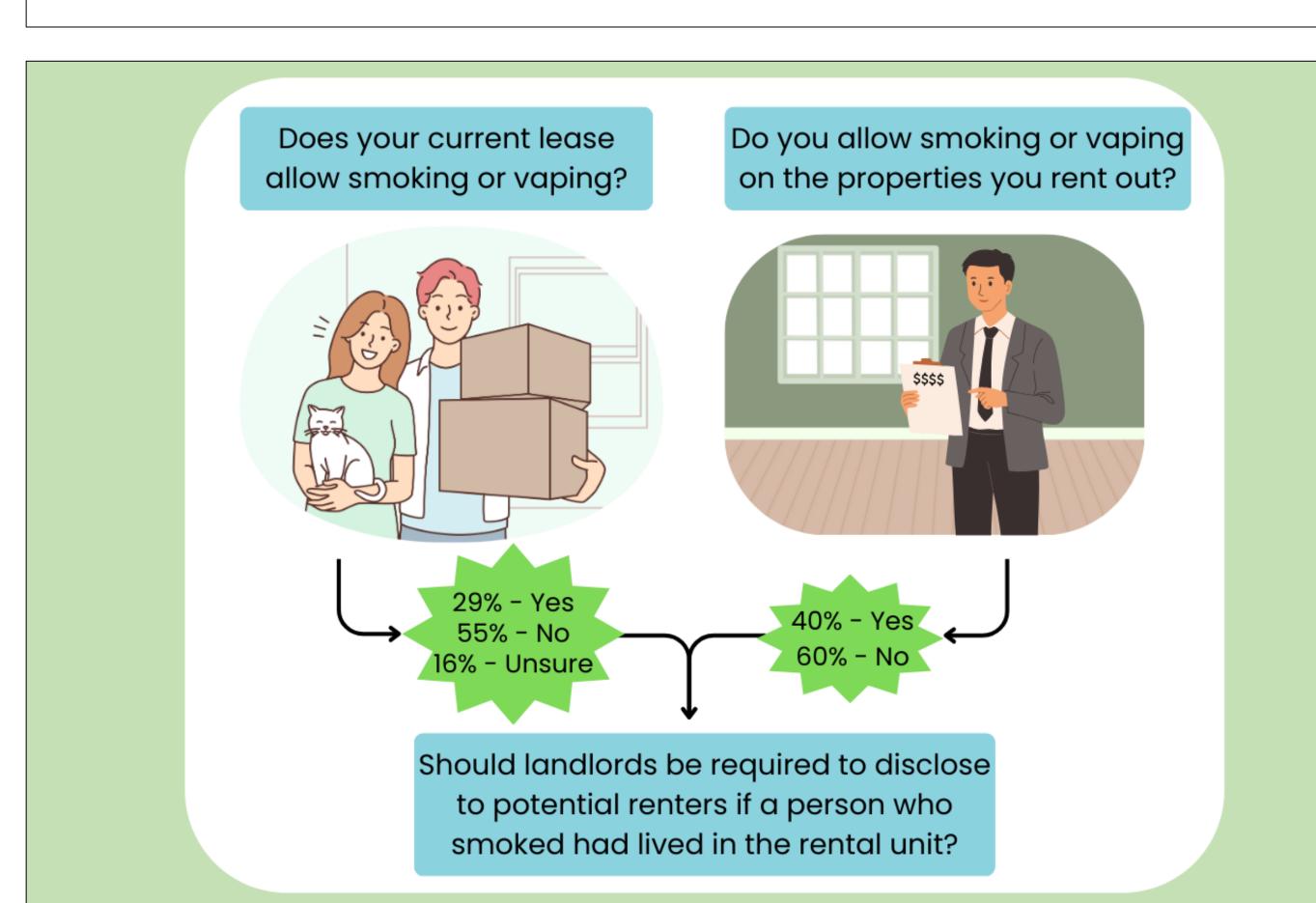
- 1,244 (53%) respondents reported that they or their family rent where they live, with the majority reporting that they live in apartments or condos (45%) or detached single family homes (43%).
- 29% of renters report that smoking and vaping is allowed in their lease.

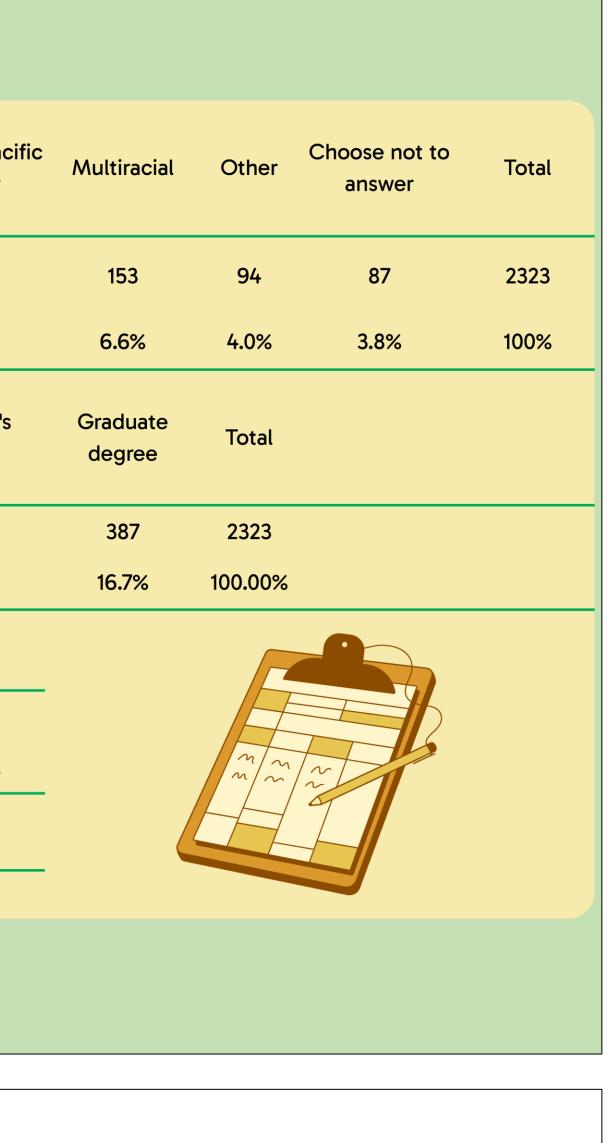
Landlords

- 405 (17%) respondents reported to be landlords that managed a total of over 700 properties, and 256 of these were landlords who owned the property in which they lived and did not pay rent themselves.
- Over 40% of landlords disclosed that they allow smoking and/or vaping on the properties they rent out.

Knowledge and Attitude Questions

• 82% of respondents agreed that landlords should be required to disclose if a previous tenant was a smoker.



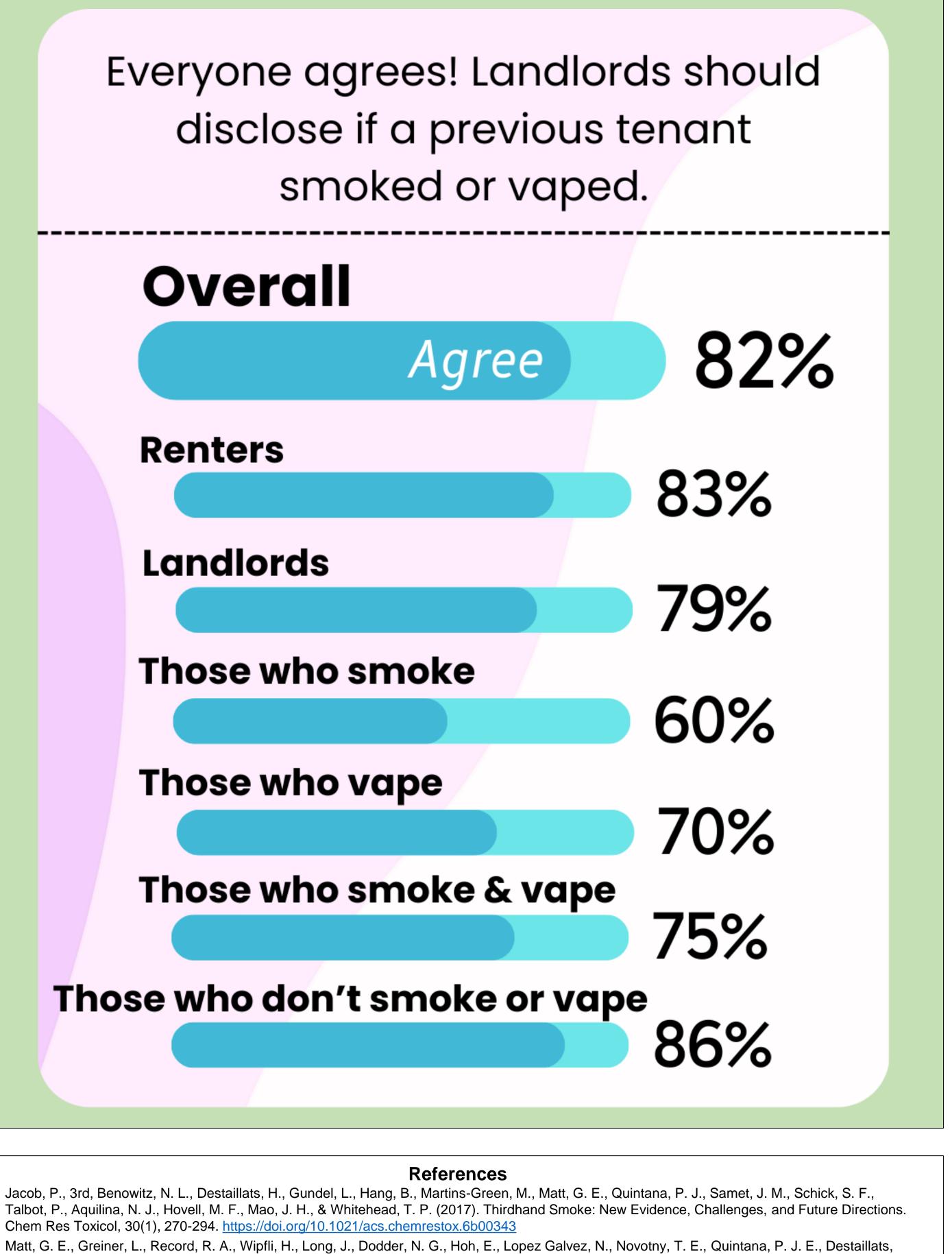


•Our polling indicates strong support for the requiring landlords to disclose if a former tenant of the property smoked or vaped inside the property. •This wave of support is seen across all relevant subcategories of our

sample, including:

those who smoke and vape (75%).

•This information will be presented to legislators, lawmakers, and keydecision makers in the state of California to require disclosure of nicotine use in all lease agreements throughout the state.



H., Tang, X., Snijders, A. M., Mao, J. H., Hang, B., Schick, S., Jacob, P., Talbot, P., Mahabee-Gittens, E. M.,...Benowitz, N. L. (2024). Policy-relevant differences between secondhand and thirdhand smoke: strengthening protections from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke pollutants. Tob Control, 33(6), 798-806. https://doi.org/10.1136/tc-2023-057971

Acknowledgements - We acknowledge all contributions of the Community Advisory Board and Community Partners. This project is funded by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program #T33PC6863.



Conclusion

- Those who smoke (60% support), those who vape (70%) and
- Those who do not smoke or vape (86% support).
- Renters (83%) and landlords (79%).